

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AF-06 IO-10 OMB-01 AID-05 SSO-00

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3081

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1945

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 17363

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN, PFOR, US

SUBJECT: MORE OF MRS. GANDHI ON FOREIGN POLICY

1. SPEAKING DECEMBER 30 TO THE ALL-INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE'S SUBJECTS COMMITTEE IN CHANDIGARH, MRS. GANDHI (ACCORDING TO WIRESERVICE REPORTS LATE TODAY) SAID INDIA HAD BEEN SHOCKED AT RECENT HAPPENINGS IN BANGLADESH. VIOLENCE HAD INCREASED THERE AND THERE WAS NEITHER STABILITY NOR PEACE. SHE SAID SHE HAD NO DOUBTS THAT FOREIGN POWERS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE HAPPENINGS THERE. MRS. GANDHI ACCUSED SOME BIG POWERS OF CONSISTENTLY INTERFERING IN THE AFFAIRS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO HAVE "PLIABLE GOVERNMENTS THAT COULD DO THEIR BIDDING."

2. SOME COUNTRIES PAID LIP SERVICE TO NON-ALIGNMENT, THE PM SAID, PUBLICLY SAYING THAT THEY ACCEPTED NON-ALIGNMENT, BUT IN PRACTICE MADE EFFORTS TO SUBVERT IT. WHEN THESE COUNTRIES SAW THAT THE SMALLER AND POORER NATIONS HAD COME TOGETHER AND HAD A VOICE IN THE UN, THEY STARTED SAYING THAT THE UN DID NOT PLAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AN EFFECTIVE ROLE.

3. SHE WELCOMED DETENTE IN EUROPE AND SAID INDIA WANTED THE SAME THING TO HAPPEN IN ASIA BUT FOREIGN POWERS WERE OBSTRUCTING SUCH DEVELOPMENTS.

4. REFERRING TO SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT THE VERY NATIONS THAT TOOK A STAND AGAINST INDIAN INTEFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES "NO MATTER HOW DEEPLY IT CONCERNED US" WERE SAYING THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS BOUND TO INTEFERE AS ITS INTERESTS WERE INVOLVED IN THE AREA. "WE HAVE NO INTENTION," MRS. GANDHI SAID, "OF ALSO INTERFERING IN THE (SIC) AFFAIRS OF THEIRS."

5. IN THE COURSE OF HER REMARKS, MRS. GANDHI ALSO EXPRESSED HER GREAT GRIEF AT THE COLLIERY DISASTER IN BIHAR AND, NOTING THAT RESCUE OPERATIONS WERE CONTINUING, OBSERVED THAT SOME PUMPS FROM THE US TO DRAIN OUT THE WATER "HAD BEEN" (SIC) RECEIVED. THESE PUMPS, SHE SAID, WOULD HELP EXPEDITE THE RESCUE OPERATIONS.
SAXBE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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